

IN THE DRAWINGS:

Please replace Fig. 14 with the enclosed replacement Fig. 14.

REMARKS

The above amendments and following remarks are fully and completely responsive to the Office Action dated January 4, 2005. Claims 1-6 are pending in this application with claim 6 added by the present amendment. In the outstanding Office Action, the specification was objected to; the drawings were objected to; claims 2 and 5 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph; and claims 1-5 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(a). No new matter has been added. Claims 1-6 are presented for consideration.

Objection to the Specification

The specification was objected to due to the informalities set forth in the Office Action beginning at page 2, paragraph 3. The specification has been amended as suggested in the Office Action. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and withdrawal of the objection to the specification.

Drawing Objection

Figure 14 of the drawings was objected to due to the informality set forth in paragraph 4 on page 3 of the Office Action. Applicant has amended Figure 14 as suggested in the Office Action. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and withdrawal of the drawing objection.

35 U.S.C. § 112, Second Paragraph

Claims 2 and 5 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which Applicant regards as the invention. Applicant has amended claim 2 such that this claim particularly points out and distinctly claims the subject matter which Applicant regards as the invention. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection of claims 2 and 5 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph.

35 U.S.C. § 102(a)

Claims 1-5 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(a) as being anticipated by Wakayama (U.S. Patent No. 6,026,502). In making this rejection, the Office Action asserts that this reference teaches each and every element of the claimed invention.

Claim 1, as amended, recites in part:

- a first switch for short-circuiting and releasing the first channel of the external side;
- a second switch for short-circuiting and releasing the second channel of the internal side; and
- a switch control section that outputs a control signal for exclusively short-circuiting any one of said first and second switches and for exclusively releasing the other one of said first and second switches;

In contrast, Wakayama teaches a method and mechanism for preventing a computer virus or hacker from invading a server. In order to accomplish this goal, a link keeper 20 is connected to a network such as the internet. Link keeper 20 includes a processor 22 having an operating system and an anti-virus program. Initially, both switch 33 and switch 34 are open. Thus, data and/or a request that is transmitted from

the internet 23 to server 37 is first stored in RAM-1 24. When switch 33 is closed, the request or data in RAM-1 is transferred to RAM 29. Thereafter, switch 33 is opened. While both switch 33 and switch 34 are open, the data or request stored in RAM 29 is subject to a second anti-virus check. After the request or data stored in RAM 29 has been checked, the switch 34 is closed to transfer the data in RAM 29 to RAM-2 39 in the server 37. Only one of switches 33 and 34 is closed at any given time. Switches 35 and 36, together with ram 32, operate in a similar fashion.

However, there is not any connection between the control circuits for switches 35 and 36 and the control circuit for switches 33 and 34. While at least one of switches 33 and 34 is required to be open at a given time and one of switches 35 and 36 is required to be open at any given time, Wakayama does not teach that either switch 33 or switch 36 must be open at a given time or that one of switches 34 and 35 must be open at any particular time. Therefore, Wakayama does not teach a switch control section that outputs a control signal for exclusively short-circuiting any one of the first and second switches and for exclusively releasing the other one of said first and second switches.

Consequently, Wakayama fails to teach and/or suggest the claimed invention. Specifically, Wakayama fails to teach and/or suggest a switch control section that outputs a control signal for exclusively short-circuiting any one of said first and second switches and for exclusively releasing the other one of said first and second switches. Therefore, Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection of claims 1-5 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(a).

New Claim

New claim 6 has been added to claim additional features of the present invention. Claim 6 depends indirectly from claim 1 and is allowable for at least the reasons set forth above. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests consideration and allowance of new claim 6.

Conclusion

Applicant's amendments and remarks have overcome the objections and rejections set forth in the Office Action dated January 4, 2005. Applicant's amendments to the specification have overcome the objection to the specification. Applicant's replacement Figure 14 overcomes the objection to the drawings. Applicant's amendment of claim 2 overcomes the rejection of claims 2 and 5 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph. Applicant's remarks have distinguished claims 1-5 from Wakayama and thus overcome the rejection of these claims under 35 U.S.C. § 102(a). Applicant's remarks have also distinguished new claim 6 from the cited prior art. Accordingly, claims 1-6 are in condition for allowance. Therefore, Applicant respectfully requests consideration and allowance of claims 1-6.

Applicant submits that the application is now in condition for allowance. If the Examiner believes the application is not in condition for allowance, Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner contact the undersigned attorney by telephone if it is believed that such contact will expedite the prosecution of the application.

In the event that this paper is not considered to be timely filed, Applicant respectfully petitions for an appropriate extension of time.

The Commissioner is authorized to charge payment for any additional fees which may be required with respect to this paper to our Deposit Account No. 01-2300, making reference to attorney docket number 027497-00001.

Respectfully submitted,
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Enclosures: Replacement Fig. 14
Petition for Extension of Time

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